Come and meet your Councillors

Between 10:30am and 12:30pm on Thursday, 7th June, please come along to the Council Office to meet your local Parish Councillors. Find out more about what we do and let us know what more we could do for you and the village as a whole. Tea will be provided together with a slice of cake, courtesy of Grub and gumption. We look forward to meeting you.

...and some owls!

The council has invited Owls About Town to set up on the Village Green on Tuesday, 5th June between 6pm and 8pm. Come along to meet the owls and birds of prey that are part of the Owls About Town family. This great opportunity to meet these magnificent birds is free-of-charge although donations to the work of Owls About Town would be much appreciated.

Please note this event is weather-dependant.

Councillor Vacancies

There are currently two vacancies for a Parish Councillor. Remembering the basic premise of the Parish Council is to make East Preston an even better place to live, a wide range of skills can be used in becoming a councillor. With an election scheduled for May 2019, this could be an ideal opportunity for someone to sample being a councillor for just under a year.

If you would like to know more please do not hesitate to contact the Council Office for more information.

If you are able to pop along to our Festival event on 7th June (see left), you will be able to chat to existing councillors about what the role involves.

Councillor Hazel Tester

The council was greatly saddened by the death of its Vice-Chairman, Hazel Tester, at the beginning of March.

Hazel joined the council in March 2012 and worked tirelessly for the village ever since. Hazel was immensely proud to have played a major part in reintroducing a Christmas event to the village and also for having led the team which organised the first two East Preston Food & Drink Festivals. As well as being Vice-Chairman since 2015, Hazel had been Chairman of the council’s Community Engagement and Personnel committees. As a member of the Planning & Licensing committee, Hazel unexpectedly became a strong champion for the retention of chimneys on the village’s more traditional properties.

Hazel was an enthusiastic supporter of the East Preston Business Community, regularly representing the council at its monthly Business Breakfast meetings, from which she will be much missed.

Following the resignation of Cllr Duijf from the chairmanship of the council, Hazel had readily stepped up to cover the chairmanship until a new Chairman is appointed.

Away from the council, Hazel was well-known within the WI across the county and beyond, volunteered at St Barnabas House and created the East Preston Friends of St Barnabas, was an enthusiastic beader and beading teacher, loved and collected giraffes, but above all that, was a much-loved mother of four and grandmother.

Hazel will be greatly missed by the council which sends its best wishes to her family and all who knew and loved her. Hazel’s family and the council thanks everyone who has sent condolences.

(photo courtesy of Tim Bigger, Abstract Creative)
Annual Report for 2017-2018

Here is the council’s report for the year to 31st March 2018

Although the council has had to face some major challenges and changes in the past few months, overall the year was another successful one for the council’s activities in the village.

As part of East Preston Festival, the council ran a successful Come and Meet Your Local Councillors event. Attendance was down on 2016, primarily because the weather was unwelcoming. The event will be running again this year, 7th June, because councillors enjoy meeting you face-to-face and learning what you like about the village and what could be improved. Two attempts to bring Owls About Town into the village for an event on the Village Green failed because of poor weather. We shall try again this year.

Each year, the council puts on two flagship events. In August, we held the second East Preston Food & Drink Festival which built on the success of the first with more stalls and more importantly more people attending and enjoying the afternoon. We will hold the Food & Drink Festival again this year, on Saturday, 25th August between midday and 5pm on the Village Green. Please pop the date in your diary now.

In November, we held the fourth Christmas Celebrations event in its current format. This is a big, wide-ranging and successful event for a small village and is enjoyed by lots of you, yet it is a difficult event for the council to arrange as the village has two shopping areas and trying to link the two together each year is no mean task. The event is also run with only a very small team of community volunteers – if you would like to join in, please get in touch with the Council Office.

In February, the council ran a playscheme for younger children, in conjunction with Bee-Fit. Attendance numbers were good, feedback was positive and the council is hoping to run similar events during the coming Autumn and Spring half-terms.

The council is proud to have provided the new Multi-Use Games Area at the Lashmar Recreation Ground. This is free to use and will hopefully provide entertainment and exercise for people of all ages. Thank you to the residents who contributed extra financial support to this project. The Warren Recreation Ground improvements project has continued and been well-received by many. Further improvements will need to sit in abeyance for a short while as some of the other council projects, such as improvements to the Sea Road toilet block, reach a critical stage. Last summer and autumn, the council trialled improved access to the beach at the bottom of Sea Road. This was appreciated by many and the council is still working on providing a permanent form of improved access to the beach there.

The council was sad to see Slater’s Cottage at 3 The Street disappear after about 150 years. Campaigns to have the building listed failed as it was not deemed sufficiently interesting or unusual to be saved. Alongside interested groups of residents the council’s Planning & Licensing Committee also fought in vain not to have Tudor Lodge in Sea Road replaced by a block of seven properties and not to have a new property built in a Vermont Drive back garden.

Financially, the council has been careful with your money whilst still working to improve life in the village. The council’s independent internal and external auditors both raised no concerns about the management of the council.

It will never be possible to please every one of you, but the positive comments we receive throughout the year outweigh the negative. The main negative for some of you this year was the introduction of charging for use of the Village Green car-park. This was never going to be something all of you welcomed but the council is pleased to see usage of the car park is increasing again.

The council is approachable and willing to consider ideas you have for ways in which life in the village can be improved. Such suggestions are best submitted in writing so the correct committee can consider them or our officers can report on previous discussions on the same matter. We look forward to hearing your ideas and hopefully implementing some of them to make the village even lovelier.

www.westsussex.gov.uk/buses

Bus Strategy Consultation
Have your say

The County Council is developing a new Bus Strategy which will explore ways in which we can work with bus companies and other partners to help sustain and improve bus services.

We would like your views on our proposals for the new strategy and if there is anything else you think we should include.

For further information and to take part in the consultation please go to www.westsussex.gov.uk/buses or call 01243 642105 to request an information pack.

The closing date for your feedback is 6 June 2018
New life-saving equipment for southern part of the village

As reported in the last issue, the Parish Council has made a successful application to the Big Lottery Fund to purchase and install a Community Public Access Defibrillator (CPAD) in the southern part of the village, outside the Council Office. Although there is already one 24/7 CPAD available at the Village Hall and another at the eastern end of Downs Way, quick and easy access to the equipment is imperative to help save lives.

Many groups meet in the southern area of the village, at the village green where fetes, festivals and other events are held. This area also houses public houses, restaurants, cafés, several shops and businesses. East Preston is a seaside village and has several holiday lets, including houses and a small caravan site. There is an increase in population during the spring and summer months with people using the beach and adjacent facilities. Positioning of a defibrillator in the southern part of the village will provide emergency support for anyone falling unwell whilst on the beach.

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) can happen to anyone, at any age irrespective of good health. Time is extremely critical should anyone fall victim. A defibrillation shock delivered within 2 minutes will give the victim an 80% chance of surviving. The chances of survival drops by 10% with every passing minute if the victim doesn't receive treatment by defibrillation.

Although the CPADs are designed to be used by members of the public with no medical training, we recognise members of the public may feel some apprehension about using the equipment. We are therefore going to hold an awareness and familiarisation session led by first responders. The awareness session will help to give participants self-confidence in using a CPAD and they will be able to recognise the signs of cardiac arrest. This will strengthen the local community in the self-belief they may save a life in a situation where every second counts and when it is all too easy to panic.

Please come along when you will have an opportunity to see and try the equipment. Spaces are limited so please book yours by calling Alison on (01903) 770050 or email epparishcouncil3@btconnect.com.

Familiarisation Event - Thursday 24th May at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Can you help us occasionally?

The Parish Council is looking to create a list of helpers to assist in supporting some of the many ad-hoc tasks which take place in East Preston.

Some of you could be reading this thinking you do not have any time available to assist as you might think most tasks can be very time consuming.

Well this is where you are wrong!!!! Volunteers only need be prepared to give as little or as much time as their lifestyle permits. This idea will give you an opportunity to be involved in your local village without it taking over your life.

For example:

- Updating notice boards in and around the village
- Assisting with the Christmas Celebrations
- Assisting with the Food & Drink Festival
- Distributing leaflets and magazines promoting events in the village
- Keeping the village tidy
- Collecting comments.

These are some of the many areas where you could help.

If you would be interested in being involved in this new venture then please get in touch. If you wish to receive more information then the Council Office will be happy to help and arrange for you to have a chat with one of the councillors at your convenience.

Village Life

June
1st - 10th East Preston Festival
4th Full Council (7pm)
5th Business Breakfast (8am)
Owls About Town (6pm, Village Green)
7th Come and Meet Your Local Councillors (10:30am, Council Office)
11th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
Audit & Governance Committee (tbc)
25th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
July
2nd Full Council (7pm)
5th Business Breakfast (8am)
9th Planning & Licensing Committee (7pm)
16th Amenities Committee (7pm)
23rd Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
30th Community Engagement Committee (7pm)
August
2nd Business Breakfast (8am)
6th Full Council (7pm) (tbc)
13th Planning & Licensing Committee (6pm)
20th Finance & General Purposes (10am, Council Office)
25th East Preston Food & Drink Festival (midday, Village Green)
28th Planning & Licensing Committee (10am, Council Office)

Council meetings are usually held at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road. For all meetings, please consult the Noticeboards and website a few days before the meeting for the Agenda.

Please note the above list may be subject to change.
East Preston Festival

This year East Preston Traders have been invited to join in the festivities by dressing their shop window to reflect the Festival theme. See if you can spot a potential winner!

Once again there will be a Boot Sale at Lashmar Recreation Ground on Saturday 10th June but spaces must be booked in advance, due to access restriction there will be NO places available on the day. For more information please email eastprestonfestival@hotmail.co.uk

The following information from the Festival Committee relates to the Festival Carnival Procession on Saturday 10th June:

Vicarage Lane will be closed to all but residents’ traffic in both directions between 11am and 1.30pm and other road closures will apply during the procession.

Approximate timings for road closures are:
- The Street from 1.10pm to 1.40pm
- Sea Lane from 1.15pm to 1.45pm
- Seaview Road from 1.30pm to 1.50pm
- Sea Road/North Lane, from 1.40pm to 2.15pm
- Lashmar Road/Roundstone Drive from 2pm to 2.30pm

Enjoy the Festival!

Parking restriction requests

There are several locations in the village at the moment where residents would like to see additional on-street parking restrictions in place. West Sussex County Council is ultimately responsible for implementing such restrictions – Traffic Regulation Orders - and more information on the process can be found here - https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/traffic-regulation-orders/about-tros/what-are-traffic-regulation-orders/

Some of the locations residents would currently like to see are:
- Lashmar Road during school drop-off and collection times;
- Eastern side of Sea Road between the junctions with South Strand and Vermont Drive
- Western side of Sea Road opposite the Village Green, both extending the physical length of the seasonal restriction and making the restriction year-round
- The top end of Old Worthing Road just as the road curves round towards the big roundabout;
- Eastern side of Station Road between the junctions with Worthing Road and Vicarage Lane;
- Manor Road.

Before you apply for a new Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), you should ensure you have the support of the wider community. This helps West Sussex County Council assess whether local people will object to the proposal when it comes to the legal stages. Objections can mean that requests do not progress but those with support from the community stand the best chance of progressing. Probably the best way to show evidence of support is to run a localised paper petition and the Parish Council can offer you help and advice on the best wording for your petition should you need it. This would then need to be presented to our County Councillor, Roger Elkins, to gain his support.

Please be aware the County Council is only able to implement a small number of Traffic Regulation Orders across the county in any given year. Accepted proposals will be prioritised by the County Council on their merits.
Roundstone Level Crossing

Back in 2009 we published this diagram obtained from the West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Highways Department. Many of you have asked for us to republish this as you found it so useful. The diagram is no longer 100% accurate following the widening works in September 2013; however, the basic rules have not changed and still apply.

At the same time, we also published some advice from Sussex Police, and republish it here by public demand:

- Vehicles waiting to exit North Lane, intending to turn left onto Worthing Road, are required to give way to traffic on the main carriageway, i.e. vehicles travelling south over the crossing.
- Vehicles waiting to exit North Lane and intending to turn right to go over the crossing, are required to give way to traffic travelling south over the crossing AND to traffic travelling east along the Worthing Road.
- Should a vehicle turning out of North Lane, fail to give way to traffic on the Worthing Road or to traffic travelling south over the crossing and subsequently cause a collision, then the driver of this vehicle should expect action to be taken against them for careless driving.
- Any driver forcing their way across the junction in contravention of the Give Way signs and road markings, may find themselves liable to a fixed penalty offence.
- The stop lines on the approach to the crossing on the Worthing Road and the Old Worthing Road are stop lines for the level crossing control and come into force when the traffic control signals are illuminated.

East Preston Youth Club launches a second youth night

Since the youth club was re-established in January 2016, it has gone from strength to strength and is now opening a second night each week on a Tuesday evening at the Conservative Hall from Tuesday 1st May between 7pm to 9pm. The additional youth night will cater more specifically for 15 to 18 year olds and the Friday youth club (at Rascals on the school site) will continue for the young people aged 11 to 14 year olds. This will allow the youth leaders to focus activities more specifically to the different age ranges.

The Management Committee and Arun Community Church continue to work successfully together to provide a youth service in East Preston, with the added financial support and office of East Preston Parish Council. The Management Committee will also be looking at different ways to raise funds to progress into the future.

The Management Committee is always looking for new members to join their team. If anyone has a particular interest in the local youth and the services available to them, please get in touch with the Council Office to speak to a member of the Management Committee.
Free tennis coaching for adults

For the second year running, East Preston Parish Council is working with Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club to offer some free tennis coaching during June.

Head coach at the club, Andrew Cook, will be offering to teach tennis to anyone not already a member of the club at the Warren Recreation Ground court on Wednesdays 13th, 20th and 27th June. Each session will start at 2pm and last for approximately an hour. Tennis racquets and balls will be provided if necessary. All standards of player are welcome whether you are a beginner or just a bit rusty and want to improve your skills. One of last year’s attendees, Lesley, had this to say afterwards, ”It was fantastic to have pretty much individual coaching from a top tennis coach in the fabulous surroundings of the Warren Recreation Ground, all for free, plus the opportunity to meet other like-minded East Prestonites. Thank you EPPC!”

There are 8 places available for each session and priority will be given to anyone who has not attended a previous class.

If you would like to take part please contact Alison on epparishcouncil3@btconnect.com or 01903 770050 to reserve your place. A £5 deposit will be required, refundable on attendance.

Please contact the office if you would like a large print version of this newsletter.

Correspondence Corner

If you would like something considered for publication in this section, please email us or write in, marking your envelope or email, Correspondence Corner.

Our latest entries in Correspondence Corner are:

THANKS FROM A CYCLIST

I like to use my bike to save fuel and get some exercise. I would like to say a big ‘Thank You’ to all the considerate drivers who give me a wide berth or take note of my signals and allow me to turn right safely. It makes such a difference and I can even enjoy my trips to do the shopping.

David

A PLEA TO DOG OWNERS

I have lived all my life in East Preston, I love it and would not want to live anywhere else. I now have to use a wheelchair to get around and it ruins my day when I accidentally wheel through some dog poo that has not been cleaned up by a disrespectful, inconsiderate owner. Please also think about carrying around a re-useable bottle of water so you can flush away your dog’s urine from the village’s pavements. It’s a simple request but your adherence would be appreciated by many.

Andy

Thanks to....

Everyone who supported Beach Clean No. 11 on 8th April, despite that day’s poor weather. We are pleased to say the amount of litter being found is reducing.

The East Preston Film Society for the new outdoor table-football table on the Village Green.

Peter Field, for taking care of the village’s news needs for sixty years. You will be much missed.

Members of the public are asked to direct enquiries for individual councillors through the Council Office. All named correspondence will be passed on to the appropriate councillor(s).